

A.3.2 Planetary Astronomy Program

1. Scope of Program

The Planetary Astronomy activity supports ground-based telescopic observations that contribute to the understanding of the general properties and evolution of the planets and their satellites, and of asteroids and comets. It includes observations made over a wide range of wavelengths from ultraviolet to radio and their analysis. The data obtained must be useful for basic research in support of planetary program objectives that either cannot be met by current spacecraft missions or directly support specific flight missions.

Proposals are sought for new projects that fall within the scope of the Planetary Astronomy Program. Ground-based observations supplementing NASA missions that will be returning significant amounts of data within the next three years are encouraged. These missions include the Galileo Europa Mission (GEM) and the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR) Mission.

2. Programmatic Considerations

Presently about \$10.7M is budgeted for this program of which \$3.5M is dedicated to facilities support (principally the Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF)). Approximately 100 investigations are supported with the remaining funds. Approximately one-third of these grants are expiring, allowing proposers to this ROSS-98 NRA to compete for about \$2.4M.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) also accepts proposals (from domestic organizations only) that contribute new knowledge in planetary astronomy. The same planetary astronomy proposal may be submitted to both NASA in response to this NRA, as well as to NSF. In such a case, the proposal must clearly state that it is being submitted to both agencies. The Planetary Astronomy Programs at NASA and NSF coordinate their reviews.

As a departure from past nomenclature for this program element, and in accordance with Appendix C.3, all proposals for this Planetary Astronomy program are now considered as “new” proposals regardless of past funding history, i.e., the old term of “Renewal (Full) Proposal” is no longer used. However, proposals that are a logical follow-on to work that has been selected and funded through previous Planetary Astronomy NRA’s should provide their existing NASA award number on the requested *Cover Page*, and describe the work that has been accomplished both in the required *Program Summary*, as well as in the body of the *Science/Technical/Management* section (see Appendix C.5).

The schedules for submission of the Notice of Intent and proposal are given in Table 1 of the cover letter of this NRA. The World Wide Web site for submitting both the NOI and

the *Cover Page/Proposal Summary* (see Appendix C.5) is
<<http://cass.jsc.nasa.gov/panel/>>; proposers without access to the Web or who experience difficulty in using this site may contact The Lunar and Planetary Institute by E-mail at <panel@lpi.jsc.nasa.gov> or by phone at (281) 486-2156 or -2166 for assistance. Hard copies of the proposals are to be delivered to:

ROSS-98 NASA Research Announcement

Planetary Astronomy Program

The Lunar and Planetary Institute

3600 Bay Area Boulevard

Houston, TX 77058

Phone number for commercial delivery: (713) 486-2166.

Additional information may be obtained from the Discipline Scientist:

Dr. Thomas Morgan

Research Program Management Division

Code SR

NASA Headquarters

Office of Space Science

Washington, DC 20546-0001

Telephone: (202) 358-0828

E-mail: thomas.morgan@hq.nasa.gov